

# **The Distribution System of the Future - Where We Are Heading**

***Nicholas W. Miller***



***GE Power Systems***

***January 21, 2003***

# Changing Market for Electric Power Companies

## Financial Performance

- *Reduce O&M costs*
- *Deferral of Capital Expenditures*
- *Pressure on Equity*

## Human Performance

- *More with Less*
- *Liberate Human Talent by Automation of Manual Processes*

## T&D Challenges

## Customer Centricity

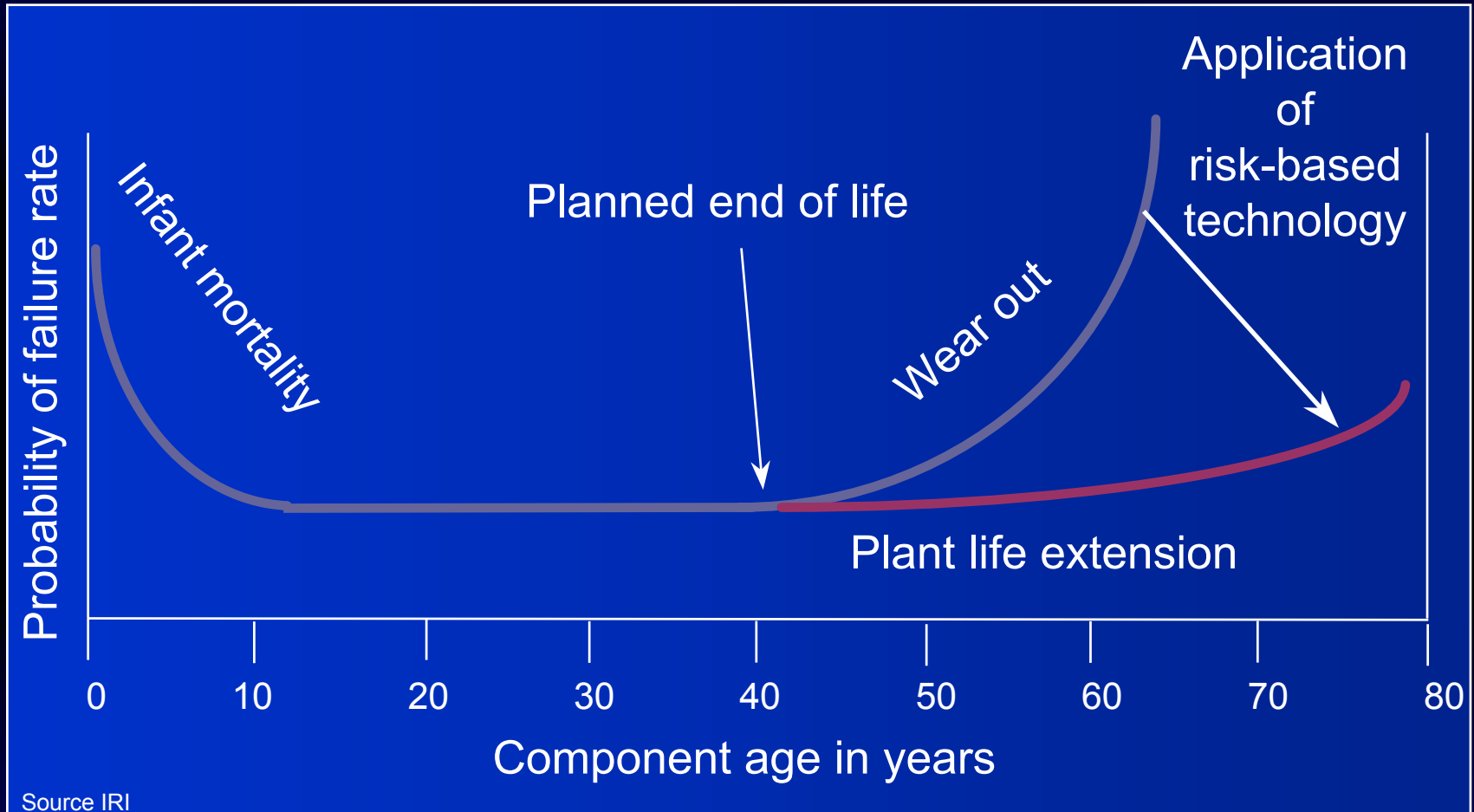
- *Power Reliability & Quality*
- *Customer Retention*
- *Value Added Services*

## T&D Asset Performance

- *Aging Networks*
- *Asset Optimization*

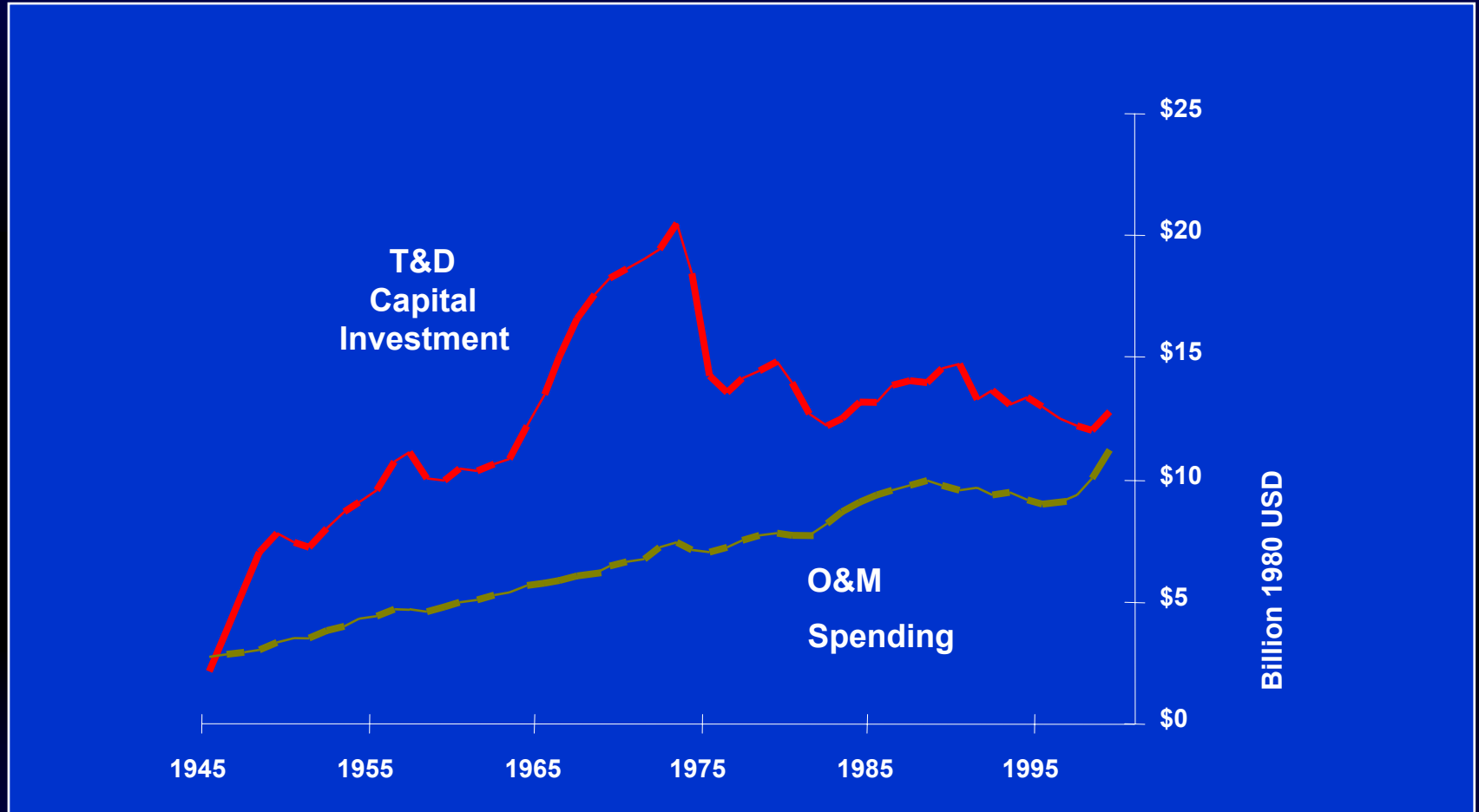
**Changing Business Environment ... Search for New Options**

# T&D Asset Life Span



**Aging infrastructure isn't going away**

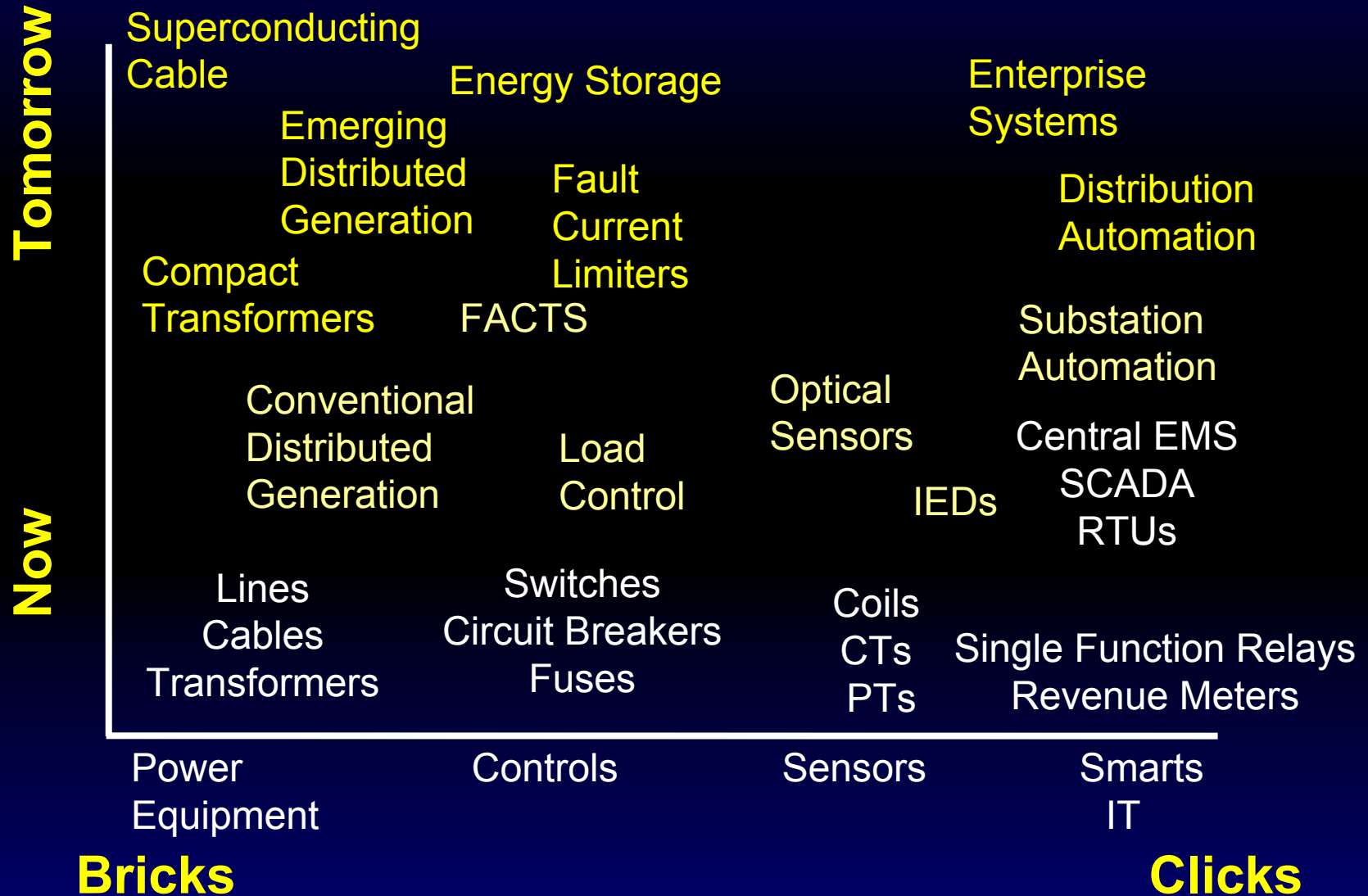
# T&D Investments



Source NERC

**Asset Base is reaching a Critical Age ... 35+ Avg.**

# Distribution Technology Spectrum



# Business Realities Drive Investment



## Yesterday

- Dedicated Applications
- Limited systems integration
- Labor intensive Processes

## Next ...

- GIS Technology ... IT backbone
- Enterprise Integration
- Operations Management
- Engineering Management

**IT Backbone ... for Reliability and Economy**

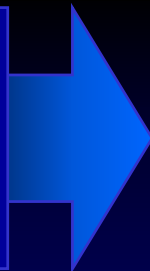


# The IT *evolution* has reached substations in a big way



## Yesterday

- Discrete Components
- Manned Facilities
- Alarms Only
- Limited Communications



## Next ...

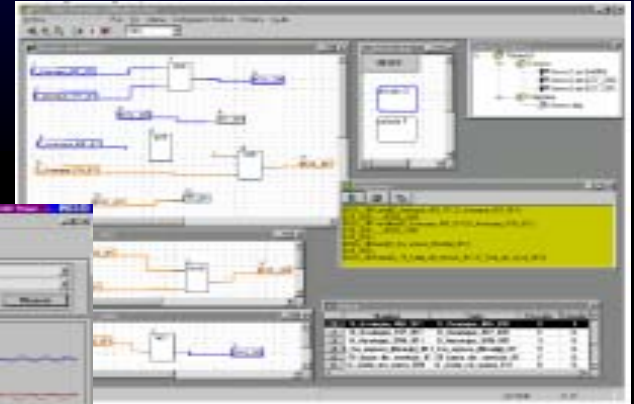
- IED/Smart Sensor based Architecture
- Remote Access & Control
- Enterprise Connectivity
- High Speed Networks

**Smart Substation ... Reliability and Enterprise**

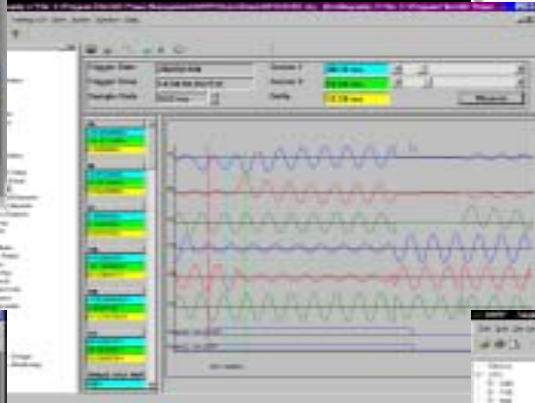
# See and control everything in the substation



**Settings**



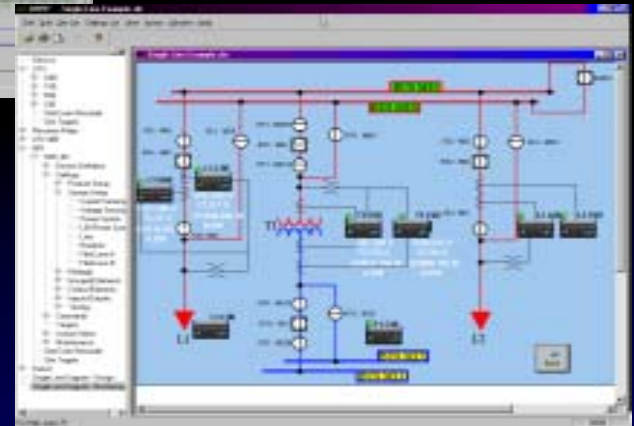
**Configuration**



**Oscillography**



**Metering**



**Single-Line Diagrams**



# Why are utility engineers so conservative?

- Reducing unscheduled outages and failures
- Detecting signs of failure conditions
- Loading T&D equipment for maximum efficiency
- Managing & extending the life of equipment
- Deferring upgrade capital costs
- Taking advantage of spot market opportunity

○ Reliability, Reliability, Reliability....

# Distribution Automation

---

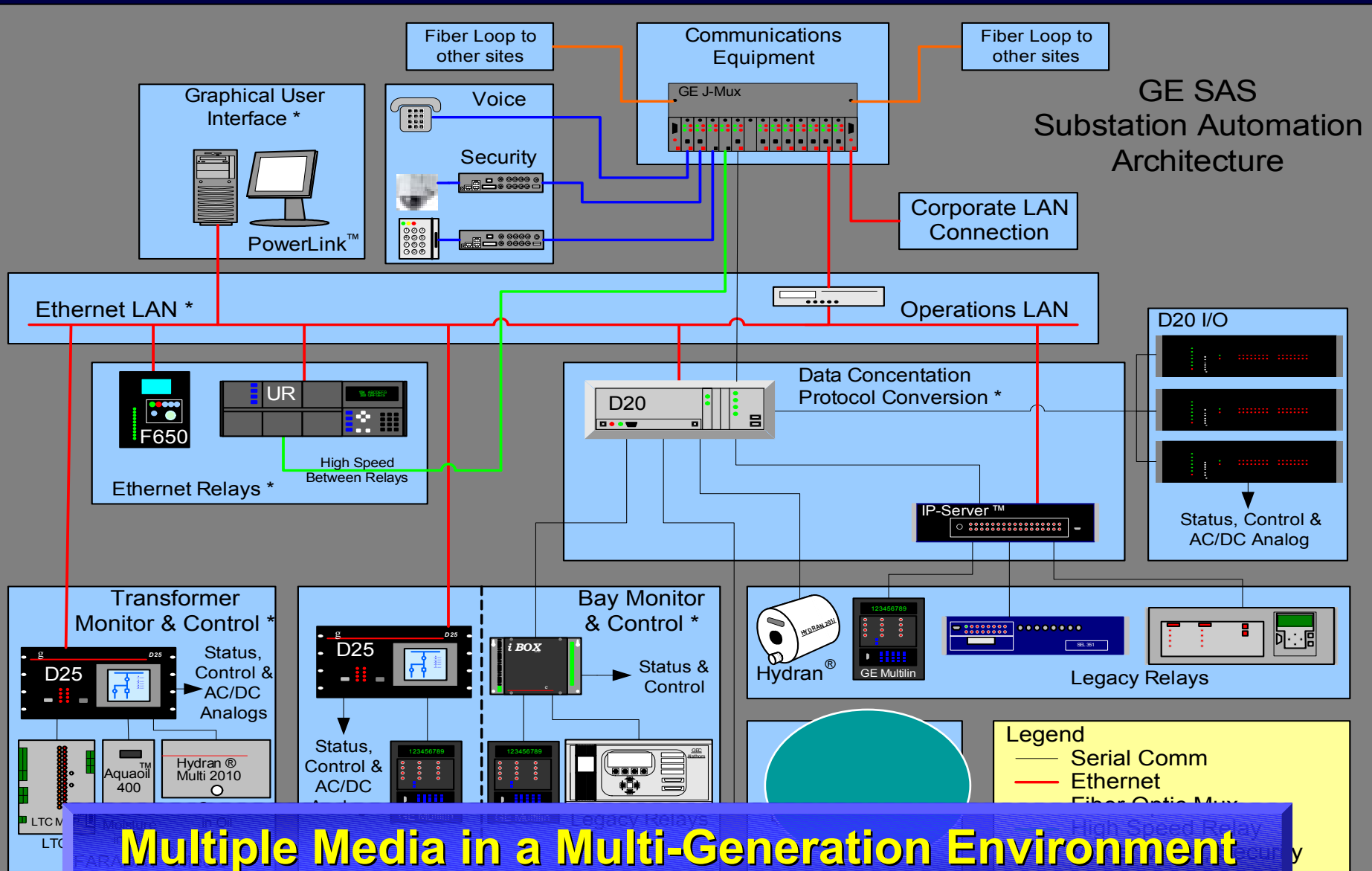
## Enabling Technologies Evolving from Central and Substation Automation

### Example Applications

- Load Transfer / Bus Restoration Automation
- Fault Localization Automation
- Voltage / VAR Optimization

**DA Investments – when there is enough return**

# Distribution Automation

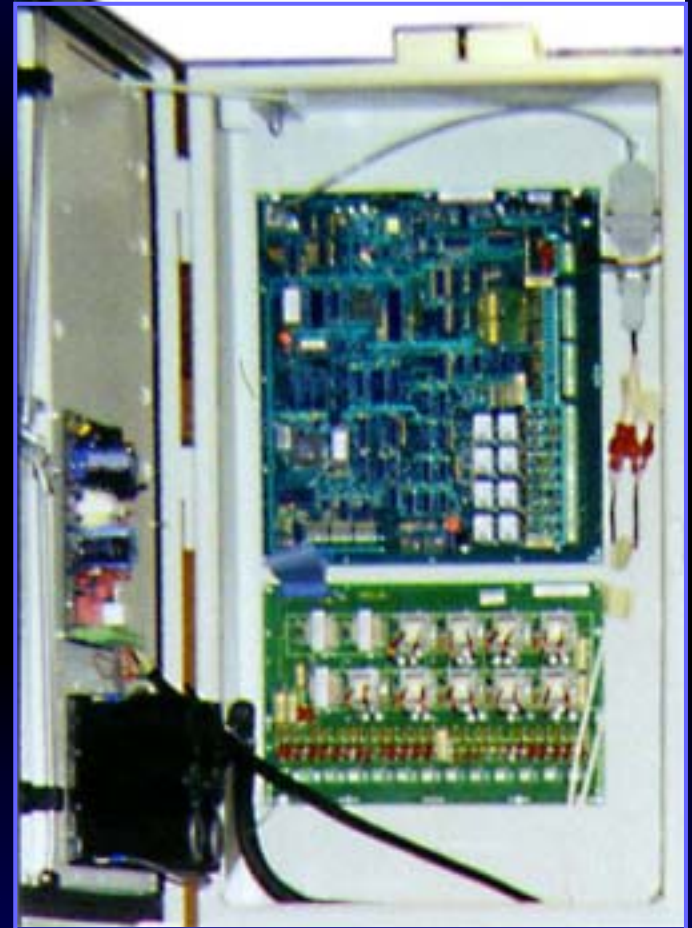


\* Serial Architectures are also available

# High Functionality Smarts – Scaled to Distribution Needs

## DART

- **Status Inputs**
  - 16 Status Inputs
  - 12 or 24 VDC Wetting Voltage
  - SOE 10 MS Resolution
- **Control Outputs**
  - 8 Discrete Form C Relays
  - Select-Before-Operate Security
  - Local / Remote Switch with LED Indicator
- **Analog Inputs**
  - Direct Input From CT, PT and Line-Post Sensors
  - 12 AC Inputs
    - » Up to 6 Voltage Inputs
    - » Up to 9 Current Inputs
    - » Optional DC Input
  - Digital Signal Processor Calculates True RMS Current / Voltage, Phase Angle, Current Direction, Watts, VARs, kWh, kVARh, Power Factor



# Distribution Automation: a case

## Problem

- Risk Cable Damage or Tolerate Long Duration Outages

## Solution

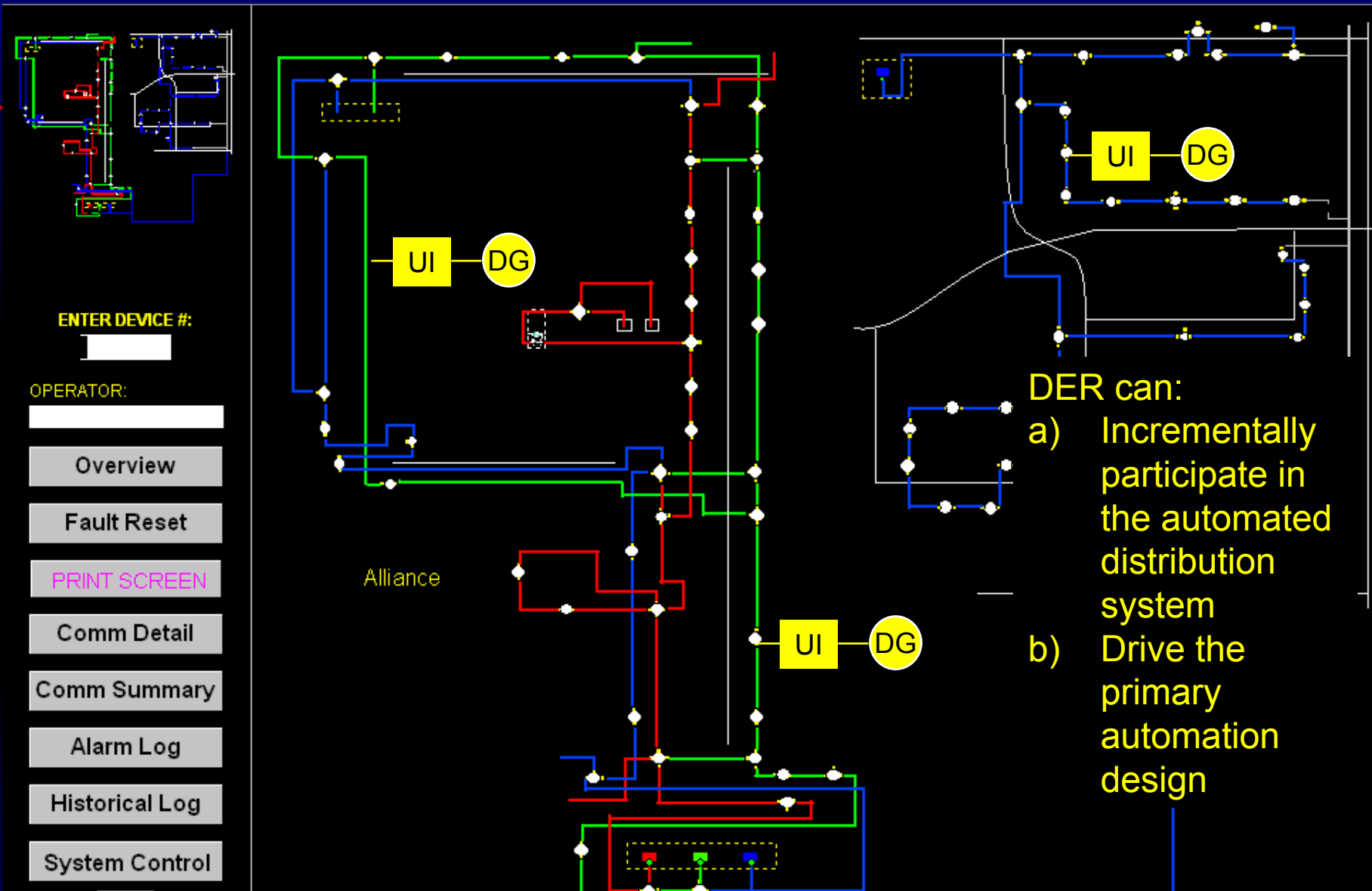
- New Fault Localization
- Upgraded Existing Equipment
- Advanced Communications Including Ethernet, Fiber, Spread Spectrum Radio, and and Satellite

## Primary Benefit

- Reduce Fault Recovery Time From Several Hours to Several Seconds
- Eliminate Potential Damage to Underground Cables From Reclosing

**Application where premium reliability justified investment**





**IT technology can accommodate DER.  
Can the business structure?**

# Summary

---

1. Current business realities are driving technology – HARD
2. New technologies must provide quantifiable value
3. New technologies must be safe
4. Integrated information technology solutions are critical to success

**Distribution System of the Future  
has every asset fully utilized for *system* benefits**

# Where does DER fit in the Distribution System of the Future?

---

1. Technical evolution of IT to integrate DER is underway
2. The full potential of DER can not be realized unless it is fully integrated with the distribution system (control/protection/automation)
  - a. Autonomous operation of DER is limiting
  - b. Commercial means to facilitate mutually beneficial performance are needed
3. Barriers are economic, statutory and regulatory: who pays, who owns, who benefits
4. Reliability, reliability, reliability...

# Thanks

---



***GE Power Systems***

***January 21, 2003***